

**REMARKS**

To expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants cancel claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13-19 and 21-27 without prejudice. Applicants note that the cancellation of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13-19 and 21-27 should not be interpreted as an acknowledgement of or acquiescence to the rejections of those claims set forth by the Office. To the contrary, Applicants will pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application since the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13-19 and 21-27 was improper.

Claims 5, 8-12 and 20 are pending in this application and have been allowed.

**REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Erin P Madill  
Erin P. Madill, Reg. No. 46,893  
(858) 658-2598

QUALCOMM Incorporated  
5775 Morehouse Drive  
San Diego, California 92121  
Telephone: (858) 651-4125  
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502